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Sent: 6/3/2021 2:48:50 PM
To: R6Press [R6Press@epa.gov]
Subject: Daily News Digest, Thursday, June 3
Attachments: Daily News Digest 060321.pdf

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NATIONAL

1 — Wendy's, States Ditch Food Wrappers With 'Forever Chemicals', Bloomberg, 6/3/21

<https://news.bloomberglaw.com/environment-and-energy/wendys-states-ditch-food-wrappers-with-forever-chemicals>

Fast-food restaurants and grocery store chains are joining a growing number of states in pushing “forever chemicals” out of food packaging, despite a federal thumbs-up that allows PFAS to touch what people eat. Burger wrappings, salad bowls, pet food bags, and other packaging use some of the chemicals in the PFAS family to repel oil and grease. Companies also use per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances to protect food-processing equipment from heat and other stressors.

2 — Fla. solar plans stoke fight over 'environmental racism', E&E News, 6/3/21

<https://www.eenews.net/energywire/stories/1063733977/print>

A northern Florida town is at the center of a clash between renewable energy developers and residents of a historically Black community — one that highlights an emerging rift between President Biden's environmental justice and clean energy goals. Many Archer residents are descendants of slaves and some of the nation's earliest Black landowners. And they want nothing to do with a 50-megawatt solar and 12-MW battery storage project proposed by Origis Energy and Gainesville Regional Utilities, or GRU.

3 — Watchdog shines light on scientific integrity, E&E News, 6/2/21

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2021/06/02/stories/1063734015>

EPA's internal watchdog is highlighting its oversight of scientific integrity at the agency. President Biden has launched a review of science across the government in the wake of alleged political interference by the Trump administration. EPA was often at the center of that meddling and has already pulled back a number of decisions made by prior political leadership. EPA's Office of Inspector General could help uncover those irregularities in how the agency handled science.

4 — Activist firm Engine No. 1 claims third Exxon board seat, CNBC, 6/2/21

<https://www.cnbc.com/2021/06/02/activist-firm-engine-no-1-claims-third-exxon-board-seat-.html>

A third Exxon board seat has been claimed by Engine No. 1, the activist firm that's been targeting the oil giant over its dependence on fossil fuels, the company said in a statement Wednesday. The announcement, which is still based on preliminary results, follows the upstart activist firm gaining two board seats at Exxon's annual shareholder meeting on May 26. The vote over the third seat was too close to call at the meeting's conclusion.

5 — Study: Warming lakes smother fish, foul drinking water, E&E News, 6/2/21

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2021/06/02/stories/1063734009>

New research warns that climate change-driven drops in oxygen levels in the world's freshwater lakes threaten drinking water and biodiversity and can possibly cause the release of more methane, a super potent greenhouse gas.

A survey of hundreds of freshwater temperate lakes across the globe found that as temperatures rise, oxygen levels have fallen 5.5% at the surface and almost 19% in deep waters during the past four decades — up to nine times faster than decreases observed in the world's oceans, according to a study published today in Nature.

ARKANSAS

6 — Fort Smith eyes federal funds for help with water and sewer system, 40 29 News, 6/2/2021

<https://www.4029tv.com/article/fort-smith-wants-federal-help-for-water-system/36612644>

The city is replacing miles of pipes and working to fix more than 600 leaks. Utility crews are replacing miles of steel water lines with PVC pipes. On Wednesday crews were in the neighborhood of S 18th St. and Harvard Ave. From 2015 - 2017 sewer rates increased by 167% for Fort Smith residents due to mandated work by the EPA through the federal consent decree requiring the city to fix issues that led to sewage overflows that eventually reached the Arkansas River.

7 — Humphrey residents still dealing with brown water, pushing for solutions, KATV, 6/2/21

<https://katv.com/news/local/umphrey-residents-continue-to-deal-with-brown-water-issues-pushing-for-solutions>

A small town 10 miles outside of Stuttgart has been dealing with brown water issues for the last decade, but residents say the problem has only gotten worse in the last two years. The Arkansas Department of Health has been actively checking on the water in Humphrey and officials say there are adequate disinfection levels in the water to ensure bacteriological safety.

LOUISIANA

8 — Louisiana to spend \$1 billion on these coastal restoration, hurricane protection projects, New Orleans Times Picayune, 6/2/21

https://www.nola.com/news/environment/article_432a45bc-c3df-11eb-bf7c-1f756db353f8.html

Louisiana will spend almost \$1 billion on coastal restoration and hurricane protection in the fiscal year that begins July 1, including 18 projects using dredged sediment to rebuild almost 14,000 acres of wetlands, marsh and ridge, Gov. John Bel Edwards said Wednesday. The money also will pay for another 109 miles of new or improved hurricane levees protecting coastal populations across the state, the start of construction on the new Houma Navigation Canal lock and completion of the Bayou Chene flood control structure, Edwards told the online State of the Coast conference.

TEXAS

9 — Intercontinental Terminals Sued for Oil Spill Cleanup Costs, Bloomberg, 6/1/21

<https://news.bloomberglaw.com/environment-and-energy/intercontinental-terminals-sued-for-oil-spill-cleanup-costs>

Stolthaven Houston Inc. alleges Intercontinental Terminals Co. LLC must pay about \$260,000 to address the costs of responding to a Texas oil storage facility fire, according to a complaint filed Wednesday in federal district court. Intercontinental failed to maintain proper protocol for safe oil and chemical storage at its facility near Houston, resulting in the fire and oil spill, Stolthaven said in its complaint in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

10 —New feral hog contraceptive bait released to 'curb population growth', KVUE, 5/31/21

<https://www.kvue.com/article/news/local/feral-hog-contraceptive-bait/269-75a12204-c012-4e32-8a64-af6267ebb03c>

Houston residents were outraged when a state agency recently announced that Houston wouldn't get a cent of the initial \$1 billion in federal funding that was promised to Texas following Harvey to help pay for flood mitigation projects, including drainage improvements and the widening of bayous. The Harris County government was also iced out, though four smaller cities in the county were awarded a total of \$90 million.